# UNIT 5 Environmental Issues

## Reading 1 Living Near Volcanoes

**Living Near Volcanoes**

In 1991, Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines surprised the world. On June 15, this volcano on the island of Luzon erupted after standing silent for five hundred years. The inhabitants of the area had never expected it to wake up. It was the second most powerful eruption of the 20th century. More than a million people had to be (A) [evaluated / evacuated], and between 700 and 900 people were killed. Surprisingly, only a few years later, life was back to normal on Luzon, and people were once again building homes and working in the shadow of the volcano.

Why do people live near volcanoes? There are logical reasons. ① They might live there because the volcano is beautiful or because a large city already (B) [exists / ceases] there. ② In many countries, people migrate to cities to find employment. ③ They don't worry about volcanoes; they are trying to feed their families. ④ Volcanoes release ash from the earth, and the ash contains nutrients that increase soil fertility. ⑤ Whatever the reason, most people who live around a volcano probably do not realize how (C) [hazardous / harmonious] it can be.

**1. Choose the grammatically correct words for (A), (B) and (C).**

| | (A) | (B) | (C) |
|---|---|---|---|
| ① | evaluated | exists | hazardous |
| ② | evaluated | exists | harmonious |
| ③ | evacuated | ceases | harmonious |
| ④ | evaluated | ceases | hazardous |
| ⑤ | evacuated | exists | hazardous |

**2. Where is the best place to insert the sentence below?**

<u>Some people also live near volcanoes because the land provides farmers with good harvests.</u>

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

"Volcanoes and their surrounding environment are beautiful places to live, work, and recreate, and the number of people moving into volcanic hazard zones (A) [is / are] increasing in post-industrial as well as developing countries," said C. Dan Miller, chief of the US Geological Survey's Volcano Disaster Assistance Program. Miller offered southern Italy as an example.

Mt. Vesuvius is (B) [located / locating] right on the edge of Naples, and it has a 2,000-year history of eruptions. Yet, there are 3.75 million people living within a thirty-kilometer radius of the summit. "What would these people do if Vesuvius erupted again?" Miller wonders. "No one can imagine (C) [to evacuate / evacuating] a city the size of Naples."

**3. Choose the grammatically correct words for (A), (B) and (C).**

| | (A) | (B) | (C) |
|---|---|---|---|
| ① | is | located | to evacuate |
| ② | are | located | to evacuate |
| ③ | is | located | evacuating |
| ④ | are | locating | evacuating |
| ⑤ | is | locating | to evacuate |

**4. Choose the words that best complete the summary of the passage.**

C. Dan Miller is concerned about the fact that although the surroundings of volcanic areas are ____A____ places to live, many people are unaware of the ____B____ of the places.

| | (A) | (B) |
|---|---|---|
| ① | attractive | dangerousness |
| ② | attractive | toxicity |
| ③ | unpleasant | dangerousness |
| ④ | unpleasant | toxicity |
| ⑤ | dreadful | dangerousness |

One of the world's most legendary volcanoes is Mt. Etna in Sicily. Sicily is an island in the Mediterranean Sea with more than five million inhabitants who are generally proud to be living near such a famous volcano.

(A) These eruptions are beautiful to watch, and observers are rarely hurt. Sicilians call Etna a "good mountain."

(B) They compare the volcano to a mother because it has bestowed on them such a good life. In fact, many people who live near Etna call themselves "Etneans."

(C) Mt. Etna has been very active over recent years, with eruptions nearly every year, but the eruptions are calm enough to attract countless tourists wanting to see a "safe" active volcano.

**5. What is the correct order of the paragraphs?**

① (B)-(C)-(A)
② (B)-(A)-(C)
③ (A)-(C)-(B)
④ (C)-(A)-(B)
⑤ (C)-(B)-(A)

**6. What is NOT true of Mt. Etna.**

① It is one of the most legendary volcanoes in the world.
② It is located in Sicily where more than 5 million people live.
③ It is a beautiful and relatively safe place.
④ It is compared to a mother by Sicilians.
⑤ It is an active volcano where tourists are reluctant to visit.

(A) [Although / Despite] their aesthetic value, there are no safe volcanoes, according to scientists. All volcanoes can be dangerous, but it is unlikely that people will stop (B) [to relocate / relocating] to areas near volcanoes. So if there's a mountain looming above your town, (C) [take / taking] a good look. Is it just a pile of rocks? Or is it a sleeping dragon?

**7. Choose the grammatically correct words for (A), (B) and (C).**

| | (A) | (B) | (C) |
|---|---|---|---|
| ① | Despite | to relocate | taking |
| ② | Despite | to relocate | take |
| ③ | Despite | relocating | take |
| ④ | Although | to relocate | take |
| ⑤ | Although | relocating | taking |

**8. What is the closest meaning of the underlined part?**

① Is it a dangerous volcano that may erupt at any time?

② Is it a legendary mountain?

③ Do dragons really live in the mountains?

④ Is it really a beautiful active volcano?

⑤ Is it enough to attract a lot of tourists?

**Hot Springs**

Most people will never see a volcano erupt, but volcanoes are not the only way that the Earth reveals its inner energy. Hot springs are smaller, gentler ways to enjoy the Earth's hot interior.

Hot springs are found where hot underground water flows up from the ground. The water is heated far below the ground by magma. Because heated water can hold more dissolved solids, hot springs often contain a lot of minerals. Some people believe these mineral waters are good for their health.

_____A_____, they believe that sulfur relieves nasal congestion, calcium helps circulation, and salt water improves digestion. Not all of these healing properties have been scientifically proven. However, studies do suggest that soaking in a hot mineral spring can decrease arthritic pain.

The countries most famous for hot springs are New Zealand, Iceland, and Japan. New Zealand has more than two dozen popular hot spring areas. Iceland, _____B_____, has about 800 hot springs in 250 areas around the country. Iceland's largest hot spring, Deildartunguhver, has a flow of 150 liters of boiling water per second! Japan boasts about 3,000 hot spring resorts. In Japan, going to hot springs for relaxation is a national obsession.

The energy inside the Earth is unimaginable. It can make mountains explode. Yet, it can also provide relaxing, healing waters. That's something to think about the next time you are soaking in a hot spring.

**9. Choose the correct words for (A) and (B).**

| | (A) | (B) |
|---|---|---|
| ① | In fact | for example |
| ② | Moreover | that is to say |
| ③ | In the end | however |
| ④ | For example | on the other hand |
| ⑤ | Therefore | similarly |

**10. What is the title of the passage?**

① Healing Effects of Hot Springs
② The Effectiveness of Minerals
③ Tourism Effects of Hot Springs
④ The Process of Hot Springs Being Formed
⑤ Side Effects of Hot Springs

## Reading 2 Water Rights, Water Fights

**Water Rights, Water Fights**

According to Fortune magazine, water is the oil of the 21st century, “the precious commodity that (A) [determines / disrupts] the wealth of nations.” Similarly, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has predicted that (B) [access / assess] to drinking water could be one of the main reasons for the next major war.

Judging by all available information, the world _____. The world’s current population of nearly eight billion people is expected to swell to nine billion by 2050. The UN estimates that if we continue to use water at today’s rates, up to 5.7 billion people will be facing (C) [acute / mild] water shortages by then.

**11. Choose the words that best fit in the blank.**

① faces an imminent water crisis

② has measures to overcome water shortages

③ doesn't know the seriousness of water shortages

④ values cooperation between countries

⑤ is already in a terrible war

**12. Choose the correct words for (A), (B), and (C).**

| | (A) | (B) | (C) |
|---|---|---|---|
| ① | disrupts | access | mild |
| ② | determines | assess | mild |
| ③ | determines | access | acute |
| ④ | disrupts | access | acute |
| ⑤ | disrupts | assess | acute |

Worldwide, we are draining so much water from our rivers (A) [which / that] in some, hardly any water reaches the sea. The Colorado River, once (B) [powerfully / powerful] enough to carve the Grand Canyon, is now being siphoned to supply water to several states in the American Southwest. Likewise, the mighty Nile and Yangtze Rivers (C) [reduce / are reduced] to a trickle before reaching their seas.

**13. Choose the grammatically correct words for (A), (B) and (C).**

| | (A) | (B) | (C) |
|---|---|---|---|
| ① | that | powerful | are reduced |
| ② | that | powerfully | reduce |
| ③ | that | powerfully | are reduced |
| ④ | which | powerful | reduce |
| ⑤ | which | powerfully | are reduced |

**14. What is the title of the paragraph?**

① The Effect of Drought on Rivers

② The Remarkable Resilience of the River

③ The Great Rivers of the World in Crisis

④ Water Shortage Due to Water Pollution

⑤ Reduced Biodiversity of Rivers

But wait! If two-thirds of the Earth's surface is covered with water, why don't we have enough water to drink? Of all the water in the world, only one percent can be used in homes and in farming. The rest of the water is either salt water or polar ice. So shouldn´t global warming release some of that water? _____A_____, global warming will make the situation worse. Now, water is released gradually from ice and snow into rivers and lakes. This water source is then replaced in winter. As winter temperatures rise because of global warming, _____B_____, the polar ice melts faster than it can be replaced. Worse still, most of the additional water will simply flow into oceans and seas.

**15. Choose the correct words for (A) and (B).**

① In fact - however

② in addition - for example

③ However - similarly

④ Therefore - hence

⑤ Instead - Therefore

**16. What is the topic of the paragraph?**

① Effects of global warming on water shortages

② Efforts to avoid responsibility for carbon emissions

③ Cases of damage caused by rising sea levels

④ The world's efforts to prevent water shortages

⑤ The problem of water shortage, not yet to worry about

While some people see the water crisis as a humanitarian issue, others see it as an economic ① one. We all need water, and some companies are set to make a healthy profit from the situation. In the Bolivian town of Cochabamba, the government gave a forty-year contract to a single water company.

(A) They are essential for maintaining a healthy, natural water supply. Other nations must follow Denmark´s example, and soon. As the UN has warned, "② ensuring the sustainable use of the planet´s resources is vital for ensuring long-term peace and prosperity."

(B) For one thing, 170 pesticides ③ have been banned because these poisons leak into the water supply. Together with this step, organic farming is being promoted because it does not use harmful chemicals. Additionally, other steps are being taken to protect important aquifers. Aquifers are large areas of stone underground ④ that hold and filter water.

(C) Shortly after receiving the monopoly, the company raised water prices drastically. Local citizens revolted. Finally, the government was forced ⑤ cancel the contract. Denmark is one country that is taking action to protect water for the future. The Danish government has a ten-step program to ensure the quality and quantity of water.

**17. What is the correct order of the paragraphs?**

① (C) - (A) - (B)

② (A) - (C) - (B)

③ (C) - (B) - (A)

④ (B) - (A) - (C)

⑤ (B) - (C) - (A)

**18. Which of the following is grammatically incorrect?**

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

**What's in Your Bottled Water?**

Why do people drink bottled water? Most people say they drink bottled water because it is healthy. But is it really? Bottled water is marketed as a pure product, but that's not always what you find in the bottle.

In North America, about forty percent of all bottled water comes from city water supplies. Sometimes the bottled water receives treatment to clean it, but one-quarter of such water receives no treatment at all! There are no laws (A) [required / requiring] companies to clean the bottled water they sell. A company can fill bottles with the same water that we use in our sinks and showers at home, and then they can sell that water to us at a (B) [very / much] higher price!

Bottled water is labeled in three different ways. The first, "spring water," really comes from a natural spring. Next, there is "mineral water." This only indicates that the water contains some minerals. It does not mean that the water is purified or that it comes from a natural source. Finally, there is "purified water." Purified water has been cleaned in some way. However, there is no way for consumers to know (C) [where / when] the water came from. When you pick up a bottle of refreshing water, do you really know what you are drinking?

**19. What is NOT true of the bottled water?**

① It is considered healthy by many people.

② It can be filled with the same water used in showers and sinks.

③ It comes from a natural spring if it is labeled as "spring water".

④ It must contain minerals and be purified before it is labeled "mineral water".

⑤ It does not provide accurate information about where it comes from.

**20. Choose the grammatically correct words for (A), (B) and (C).**

① requiring - much - when

② requiring - much - where

③ requiring - very - where

④ required - much - when

⑤ required - very - where

**Answer Key**

**1.** ⑤
**2.** ④
**3.** ③
**4.** ①
**5.** ④
**6.** ⑤
**7.** ③
**8.** ①
**9.** ④
**10.** ①
**11.** ①
**12.** ③
**13.** ①
**14.** ③
**15.** ①
**16.** ①
**17.** ③
**18.** ⑤
**19.** ④
**20.** ②